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NOTES AND LITERATURE

THE DOCTRINE OF EVOLUTION

IN¹ "The Doctrine of Evolution," Professor Crampton is issuing in book form eight "Hewitt Lectures" delivered at Cooper Union in 1907 before "audiences made up almost exclusively of cultivated minds, but who were, on the whole, quite unfamiliar with the technical facts of natural history. . . . The course was, in a word, a simple message to the unscientific."

The scientific reader of this book, can not expect, then, to discover a new message in it for himself unless he be pretty woe-fully ignorant of all things connoted by the word evolution. And he will not. Or perhaps after all he will. For if he be a reader who relegates evolution to the world of lower creatures, the plants and "animals," he may find himself suddenly learning that he too is a part of evolution and nothing else besides. Because that is what this book teaches very strongly. Four of the eight chapters of it discuss the evolution of man; first, the evolution of his physical self, then of his mental self, then of his social and ethical self, and finally of all there is left of him, to wit, his religious, theological and philosophical self. It is this part of the book that as "a simple message to the unscientific" may make even a few scientific open wide eyes and be strongly attracted or repelled by it. For the treatment of man in all his parts and activities as a wholly natural, perfectly explicable and perhaps quite to be expected product of the great, world-dominating, blind *causa efficiens* that is evolution, has not been more lucidly, strongly and consistently done—that is, as far as my reading goes. This may, of course, say more about the limitations of my reading than of the quality of Professor Crampton's book; but that is the reader's risk with any reviewer.

Especially is Chapter VII, "Social Evolution as a Biological Process," well handled. There is more of a whole-souled sureness with less of an imitating dogmatism of language about the

¹"The Doctrine of Evolution," by Henry Edward Crampton, professor of zoology in Columbia University, 311 pp., 1911, Columbia University Press, New York, \$1.50.

treatment of social evolution in this concise chapter than one usually gets from others who consider this subject from the same point of view. The three laws of life that make social evolution possible and inevitable, viz., "Preserve thyself," "Preserve thy kind," "Remain together," and the course of biological and sociologic specialization, are all very happily exposed and illustrated.

In the chapter on "Evolution and the Higher Human Life," Professor Crampton has been admirably bold and explicit. His treatment is encouragingly specific. His consistent attitude as a thoroughgoing evolutionary explainer of man's body, mind and social life, receives no shadow of weakening from his attitude toward man's ethical, religious and philosophical capacities and activities. Man in the entirety of self and possession is a natural product, and evolution is his natural producer! That is the emphasized and conspicuous part of Professor Crampton's "simple message to the unscientific"! The rest of the book is really only preparation for this part of it.

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